

# Keeping in Touch

News and notes from  
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

February 1995

## UFMCC Launches Strategic Growth Initiative

The UFMCC Board of Elders is introducing a Strategic Growth Initiative to lead the denomination to double in size.

"My vision for the future of our Fellowship is to double the size of our churches within the next 10 years," said Rev. Elder Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. "Now I am pleased to announce that the Board of Elders is launching a Strategic Growth Initiative to help our churches plan for outreach that will lead to growth."

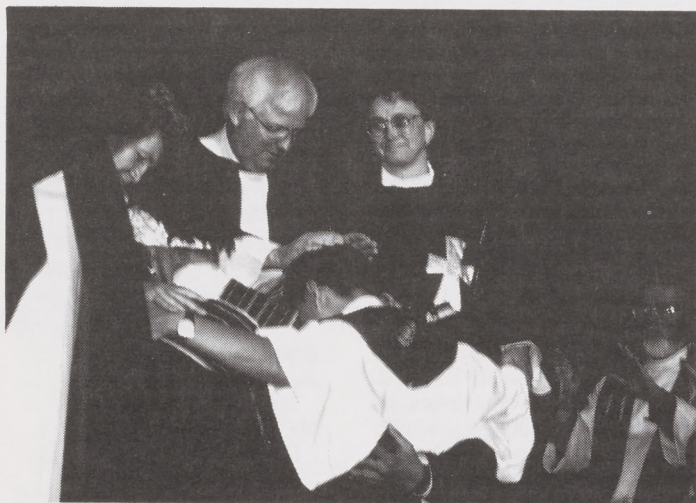
The initiative will be lead by Rev. Elder Don Eastman, who has long been one of MCC's leading advocates for church growth.

"My goal is to help your church take the next step," Rev. Eastman said. "My prayer is that future generations will look back and say of us as was said of the earliest Christian church, 'God added to their number day by day those who were being saved.'"

Services offered through the Strategic Growth initiative will include:

▼ **District Support:** Conduct annual analysis of growth in districts, provide information, facilitate in-service training and provide individual consultation services for district coordinators on church growth and management issues.

▼ **Troubled Churches:** Provide comprehensive and continuing consultation services including conflict mediation as needed, strategic planning, leadership development and resources to selected key churches experiencing or at risk of major numerical membership loss.



Rev. Don Eastman leads a blessing during closing worship at the 1993 General Conference.

Photo by Mr. William Tom

If you were to pick the ten fastest growing denominations in the (U.S.A.), MCC would clearly be one of them... Whereas most of the mainline denominations are organized around religious law, MCC is clearly organized around God's grace. In today's world, that's a winner.

Church growth expert Lyle Schaller, quoted in a major article on UFMCC in *The Advocate*, Dec. 13, 1994

▼ **Target Churches:** Provide comprehensive and continuing consultation services on strategic planning, leadership development and resources to selected churches committed to moving beyond a present numerical plateau.

Several target churches will be selected in mid-1995 and offered comprehensive consultation services. Congregations interested in growing beyond a plateau or barrier are invited to contact Rev. Eastman at UFMCC International Headquarters.

(See *Growth Initiative*, page 4)

## Worship Planned for Atlanta

By Mr. Phil Sheldon

With the 17th UFMCC General Conference now less than six months away, the Worship Committee members are hard at work arranging the final details. Services during the conference week will highlight the diverse backgrounds and worship styles which we celebrate in our Fellowship.

Conference participants will experience the richness of UFMCC's worldwide evangelism through the words of preachers, the spirit of hymns

and the peace of silent meditation in a darkened room.

Each of the seven elders will preach during General Conference, starting with Rev. Elder Hong Tan on Sun., July 23, and finishing with Rev. Elder Troy Perry leading the closing service on Sun., July 30. The two Sunday services will also provide the opportunity to participate in communion together as one body. Rev. Jay Neely, Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coor-

(See *Atlanta*, page 2)



# Churches Already Planning for Australia

Local Metropolitan Community Churches and districts have already begun planning and saving for the 1997 General Conference in Australia.

The 1993 General Conference voted to hold the 1997 conference in Australia, the first UFMCC General Conference to be held outside North America.

Compared to holding the conference in North America, the only additional cost for Americans will be approximately \$300 to \$1,000 per person in airfare, and staff is working on finding lower-cost alternatives.

"Basically we're looking forward to it. It doesn't strike us as a burden," said Rev. Pat Bumgardner, pastor of MCC New York, NY. "MCC New York's focus has always been multicultural and global. We see it as a justice issue to reflect the global nature of

UFMCC. It's with this sense of who we are as a church that we are approaching the finances by faith."

The Northwest District voted to have its 1997 district conference in Hawaii on the three days prior to General Conference in Australia. "The district made this decision as both a cost-saving feature, as a commitment to show solidarity for our churches in Hawaii and because we felt it would be a great place to have conference — especially if the marriage laws allow gay/lesbian marriages by then," said Rev. Janet Suess-Pierce, Northwest District Coordinator.

An example of the churches that have already begun making financial plans is MCC of the Resurrection in Houston, TX. Rev. John Gill, pastor, said the church has been budgeting \$50 a week extra into a designated fund since the 1993 General Conference, so that by 1997 they will have an extra \$4,000. "It's important to go to Australia because the General Conference voted it," Rev. Gill said.

St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL, has already saved \$1,100 toward the Australia conference. "Our budget is \$7,300 for the 1995 conference in Atlanta. Whatever's left over is to hold for Australia," added Rev. Frankye White, pastor. "It's important to go to Australia because the Fellowship voted for us to go and to continue thinking in terms of the international nature of the Fellowship." She recalled the many benefits she experienced when she attended the 1983 General Conference in Toronto, Canada, the only other General Conference to be held outside the United States.

Debate about Australia as a General Conference site is occurring in a variety of places, including through online computer services. Recent postings to America Online included several comments about the expense of travel to Australia, as well as affirmations of the conference decision to go to Australia. Great Lakes District Coordinator Judy Dale said that many churches of all sizes in her district have been saving for Australia since 1991. "The most exciting thing is the number of individual congregants who have never been to General Conference, but they are already saving to go to the '97 conference because it's in Australia," she said. □

## Atlanta

(continued from page 1)

dinator, will celebrate the opening communion.

During the week, Ms. Hilary Clinton (European District), Rev. Jeffrey Jordan (MCC Philadelphia co-pastor), and Rev. Jim Mitulski (MCC San Francisco pastor) will also share their preaching.

Special services will commemorate MCC traditions, old and new. These include the World Church Extension service (Wed., July 26), the ordination service (Fri., July 28), and the Human Rights service on Saturday morning, July 29, led by Rev. Pat Bumgardner (MCC New York pastor).

In addition, a Taize-style worship service can be experienced Monday evening, July 24 as the Service of Remembrance. Many who attended the Taize chapel service at the 1993 General Conference have been inspired to arrange Taize services in their own churches since then. This worship originated in the village of Taize, France. It balances multi-lingual scripture readings and simple music with periods of

silence. At its roots, Taize worship reflects the simplicity of monastic life and the mystical potential of Christianity. This service will offer a quiet time for individual and community prayer, a welcome balance to the intensity of the first day of conference business!

Rev. Colleen Darraugh, pastor of Harvest MCC, Denton, TX, is the official liturgist for this Conference. Mr. David Heid of St. John's MCC in Raleigh, NC is coordinating the worship music program. "I hope the music will reflect not only the vast diversity currently within the UFMCC, but also the potential diversity that remains untapped. Being in Atlanta, home to the Martin Luther King Center, we will celebrate the African-American music and traditions that lie deep within our country and Fellowship," Mr. Heid said.

As at every General Conference, smaller chapel services will also be held throughout the week to provide space for personal reflection amidst the excitement of the conference. □

## New Zealand Churches Grow

MCCs in New Zealand are experiencing joys and challenges.

A new group, led by Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein, began meeting Nov. 27 in Christchurch. The group has chosen the name All Saints MCC and hopes to be formally approved as a new work in February.

The Church hosting MCC Waikato has asked MCC to look for other space, after detailed discussions with Rev. Iris Saggars, pastor, and Rev. David Teggert, extension coordinator for New Zealand. □



*Keeping in Touch* is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Send address changes, news and ideas to: *Keeping in Touch*, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 464-5100.

### Editorial Board:

Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry,  
Moderator  
Mr. Ravi Verma,  
Director of Administration  
Rev. Kittredge Cherry,  
Editor

Deadline for each issue: 15th of previous month.

Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting



## Pension Board Appoints Nesbitt

The UFMCC Board of Pensions (USA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Hal Nesbitt of Long Beach, CA as the UFMCC Board of Pensions Administrator, effective Jan. 1, 1995. Mr. Nesbitt succeeds Ms. Lois Luneburg who retired Dec. 31, 1994.

After Jan. 1, 1995, all correspondence and inquiries to the UFMCC Board of Pensions (USA) should be directed to Mr. Nesbitt at the following address:

Mr. Hal Nesbitt, Administrator  
UFMCC Board of Pensions  
(USA)

P.O. Box 362  
Long Beach, CA 90807-0362  
Phone: (310) 983-9276

Raised Episcopal, Mr. Nesbitt came to UFMCC in 1979 through MCC Long Beach, CA. In 1984 he joined Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana, CA. He became a deacon there in 1985, and served as worship coordinator in 1990 and again in 1993-95.

He was trained in pension administration in 1989 as profit sharing accountant for the Denny's Restaurant Corp. He served as a pension administrator for five years with Benetech, Inc., a large, independent, third-party administrative service provider.

Mr. Nesbitt initially approached the UFMCC Board of Pensions seeking an advisory position on the board, and was invited to consider the administrator position. He brings to the Board of Pensions an understanding of the ins and outs of pension administration and a sincere desire to serve the clergy of UFMCC. □

## Correction

MCC Muskegon, which ranked third on the "Top 20 Per Capita" list for October 1994, is in Michigan, not Oregon. □



Rev. Kit Cherry, left, discussed lesbian issues with WCC officials Ms. Margareta Skold, center, and Ms. Marilia Schuller.  
Photo by Ms. Audrey Lockwood

## Lesbians Call for Justice from World Council

After hearing from leaders of UFMCC and the World Council of Churches, the 250 attendees of a recent international lesbian conference called for justice from the WCC.

"As lesbians, we're excommunicated and we can't be ordained, receive the eucharist, or be safe in our relationships," said an official letter from the conference. "Lesbians and gay men must be included in all decisions in the church."

Rev. Kittredge Cherry, ecumenical field director, represented UFMCC at the conference, which was sponsored by the state church in Germany. It was held Dec. 15-18 in the Protestant Academy at Bad Boll, near Stuttgart. Women attended from 13 countries, including Hong Kong, the Philippines, Jamaica, India and South Africa.

"In the WCC, lesbianism is still 'the love that dare not speak its name' or, as the official WCC magazine put it, 'an issue that leaves us vulnerable,'" Rev. Cherry told the conference. "The indecision of the churches about lesbian and gay issues supports hate crimes against us, contributes to the high suicide rate among lesbian and gay teens, and contributes to the spread of AIDS by denying safe sex education."

Rev. Cherry co-facilitated a workshop and spoke on three different panels, including one with WCC executive secretaries Ms. Marilia Schuller, a black Brazilian theologian, and Ms. Margareta Skold, a Swedish health care specialist.

For UFMCC, the conference is expected to result in greater cooperation with the WCC and with other lesbian Christians around the world. Dr. Irmgard Ehlers, conference coordinator, expressed interest in co-sponsoring an international lesbian conference with UFMCC in the future.

After the conference, Rev. Cherry and her spouse, Ms. Audrey Lockwood, participated in a follow-up program for overseas participants in the conference. Highlights included visits with Ms. Biggi Bender, the only open lesbian in the parliament of Baden-Wurttemberg; Dr. Barbara Gissrau, a lesbian Freudian psychoanalyst; and Bishop Renz of the Protestant Church of Wurttemberg.

Between strategy sessions on how to continue advocating lesbian and gay rights in the church, the women held a feminist Christmas celebration, complete with an international medley of songs ranging from "Silent Night" to "Beer Barrel Polka." □

## On The Wings of Angels

By Rev. Judy Dahl

World Church Extension is beginning a new program to reach out to our sisters and brothers living in WCE areas. We are looking for a few good angels!

If you are a person who accumulates frequent flyer miles, you have the opportunity of becoming an "angel"!

Over the years WCE has raised money to bring a few people each General Conference, but this year we are asking you to relinquish your frequent flyer miles in order to bring the largest-ever representation from WCE.

WCE would like to bring two representatives from each of the following countries to our General Conference in Atlanta this July: Philippines, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Argentina, and New Zealand.

Ms. Julie Tizard, a United Airlines pilot and member of the Southwest District Committee, has found that current mileage requirements to the United States are: 30,000 from Mexico, Caribbean and Central America; 40,000 from Europe and South America; 50,000 from Japan or the Pacific Rim; 80,000 from New Zealand and Africa.

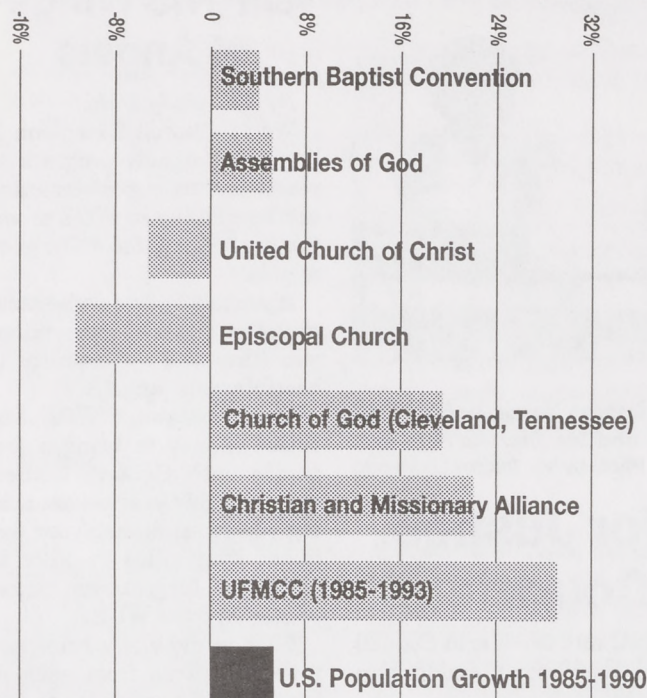
All trips require at least two months prior planning for reservations, so we would like you to respond as soon as possible! This is how it will work:

▼ If you have frequent flyer miles accumulated, you may get a certificate of those miles from the airlines where you are registered. This certificate can be signed by you (leave the benefactor of these miles blank) and send your certificate to the WCE administrator, Rev. Judy Dahl at the UFMCC International Headquarters.

▼ Individuals who donate awards certificates will receive a charitable donation tax receipt and will be recognized at General Conference. □



## Five-Year Membership Growth Rates (1985-90)



## Growth Initiative

(continued from page 1)

In 1983, Rev. Eastman presented the first church growth workshop at a UFMCC General Conference. As pastor of MCC in Dallas, TX from 1978-86, he led that church to become one of the largest in the Fellowship. Since then, he has been based at UFMCC International Headquarters in Los Angeles, CA, a position that enabled him to conduct church growth workshops and retreats in most districts and many churches. Now his duties are being revised to empower him to focus most of his time on the Strategic Growth Initiative.

Joining Rev. Eastman in this effort will be an advisory Strategic Growth Team, to be appointed by the elders in early 1995. □

## Africans Vote

Rev. Tsietzi Thandekiso reports that a meeting of his congregation voted just before New Year to join UFMCC. Almost 100 people voted to proceed with documents of affiliation.

"We are most excited and have already had positive support from many professional people," reported Rev. Thandekiso. The congregation also decided to look at the possibility of rallies in three large cities to promote MCC and to gather further support. □

## "Heavenly" Float Planned

For the last few years Metropolitan Community Churches have had a float in the lesbian and gay Mardi Gras parade in Sydney, Australia. Planning and organizing is done by the two resident Sydney churches — MCC Good Shepherd and MCC Sydney.

The theme they have chosen for the float this year is "heavenly" bodies. Any MCC congregants are invited to join the float in the parade this year as long as they meet the following guidelines: they must have "wings" and their costumes must be colored gold, silver or white. □

## In Memory

### Rev. Donald D. McRae

Rev. Donald D. McRae, pastor of MCC Windsor, Ontario, Canada since 1988, died Jan. 2 due to complications from HIV/AIDS. He was 50.

After serving as student clergy at MCC Toronto, Rev. McRae was licensed in 1982 and ordained in 1989. He also served at MCC Hamilton and Christos MCC, both in Ontario. He was clergy representative for the Eastern Canadian District.

A funeral was held Jan. 6.

### Rev. A. Franklin Murr

Rev. A. Franklin Murr, UFMCC clergy since 1976, died Dec. 28 due to complications from HIV/AIDS. He was 46.

Licensed in 1976, Rev. Murr was one of the founders of MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO. He served MCC's in Washington, DC, and Santa Barbara, Long Beach and Palm Springs, CA. He was ordained in 1987. At the time of his death, he was administrative assistant at First Congregational Church in Long Beach.

A memorial service was held Jan. 15.

## Top 20 Tithes - Nov. 1994

|     |                                            |       |          |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1.  | Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX          | US \$ | 6,374.32 |
| 2.  | MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX       |       | 3,261.84 |
| 3.  | Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL |       | 3,087.17 |
| 4.  | MCC Washington, Washington, DC             |       | 2,611.22 |
| 5.  | St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL           |       | 1,745.38 |
| 6.  | Joy MCC, Orlando, FL                       |       | 1,650.01 |
| 7.  | MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO             |       | 1,339.59 |
| 8.  | Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL    |       | 1,283.82 |
| 9.  | MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA       |       | 1,271.42 |
| 10. | MCC Key West, Key West, FL                 |       | 1,171.25 |
| 11. | MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA                 |       | 1,137.60 |
| 12. | Spirit of Hope MCC, Kansas City, MO        |       | 1,079.42 |
| 13. | MCC New York, New York City, NY            |       | 1,044.08 |
| 14. | Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX      |       | 774.97   |
| 15. | First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA          |       | 758.26   |
| 16. | St. John the Apostle MCC, Ft. Myers, FL    |       | 724.52   |
| 17. | Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL   |       | 717.10   |
| 18. | Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX                  |       | 702.82   |
| 19. | St. John's MCC, Raleigh, NC                |       | 691.50   |
| 20. | Covenant MCC, Birmingham, AL               |       | 672.61   |

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

## Top 20 Per Capita - Nov. 1994

|     |                                               |       |       |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1.  | Gentle Spirit MCC/Espiritu, Chicago, IL       | US \$ | 45.90 |
| 2.  | Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX         |       | 35.55 |
| 3.  | Muskegon MCC, Muskegon, MI                    |       | 28.34 |
| 4.  | MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD                  |       | 27.47 |
| 5.  | Christos MCC, Toronto, Ont. Canada            | CAN\$ | 25.81 |
| 6.  | MCC North Pines, Yelm, WA                     |       | 25.00 |
| 7.  | MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA    |       | 23.66 |
| 8.  | Overlake MCC, Bellevue, WA                    |       | 23.29 |
| 9.  | St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL              |       | 21.79 |
| 10. | Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, IA |       | 21.72 |
| 11. | MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS               |       | 21.69 |
| 12. | MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX          |       | 21.47 |
| 13. | MCC Ventura, Ventura, CA                      |       | 20.84 |
| 14. | New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC                   |       | 20.15 |
| 15. | MCC Montgomery, Montgomery, AL                |       | 19.97 |
| 16. | River of Life MCC, Richland, WA               |       | 18.67 |
| 17. | MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA                    |       | 18.66 |
| 18. | Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC, Honolulu, HI       |       | 18.55 |
| 19. | MCC New York, New York City, NY               |       | 18.38 |
| 20. | MCC of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, PA       |       | 18.23 |

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}



# Around The Fellowship

## Praises

An excellent seven-page article about UFMCC was published Dec. 13 by *The Advocate*, the U.S. national gay and lesbian newsmagazine with the largest circulation. To thank *The Advocate*, write to: Letters to the Editor, The Advocate, P.O. Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078; or fax to (213) 467-6805.

**Rev. Roy Cole**, pastor of MCC Portland, OR, participated in a day-long discussion Dec. 10 of homophobia and its relation to the November election with 10 members of the Urban Rural Mission, a program of the World Council of Churches.

**MCC Edmonton**, Canada, held a series of new events over the past year, including a kosher Seder supper, inner city ministry and, together with its host church, an Advent Decorating Saturday.

**Rev. Steve Pieters**, AIDS ministry field director, attended a meeting of representatives of religious organizations with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA in December.

The **High Court of New Zealand** recently ruled that transsexuals may marry.

## Transitions

**Rev. Candace Shultis** was elected pastor of MCC Washington, DC.

**Rev. Patricia Leffler** was elected pastor of Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA.

**Rev. Julie Daley** was elected pastor of MCC Adelaide, Australia.

**Rev. Paul Graetz** was installed as pastor of All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN on Jan. 15.

**Rev. Paul Whiting** became pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, IA, effective Jan. 22.

**Rev. Barbara McLennan** is the new pastor of Family of God MCC, Billings, MT.

## Prayers

Record-breaking rains flooded **Russian River MCC**, Guerneville, CA, and most of its members in early January, reports **Rev. Jodi Safier**, pastor. The church had to cancel worship services Jan. 8 due to flooding.

**Mr. Mario Gutierrez**, pastoral leader of **MCC Pazy Alegria**, Managua, Nicaragua, reports that the government recently upheld anti-gay legislation, but other churches are displaying new openness.

**Rev. Judy Dahl**, the new administrator of **World Church Extension**; **Rev. Steve Torrence**, pastor of **MCC Key West**, FL; **Rev. Elder Darlene Garner**; and **Ms. Ana Vargas**, deacon of **MCC Ventura**, CA, travel to the Dominican Republic Feb. 1-8. They are visiting both MCCs and the orphanage there.

Prayers are requested for **Church of the Holy Spirit MCC**, Des Moines, IA, where the religious right is stirring hatred by opposing the addition of homosexuality to the public school curriculum.

Prayers are requested for the people of **Nigeria** in the aftermath of political unrest there. **Rev. Maduka**, Nigerian Extension Coordinator, reports, "The hardship is biting badly, no electric light, no kerosene, no fuel, no gas. Life is very hard at this time. In the country, the death toll has risen greatly due to hunger and starvation."

**Rev. Eva O'Diam**, pastor of **MCC of the Spirit**, Harrisburg, PA, recently received termination of her ordination credentials from the Church of the Brethren. Rev. O'Diam has challenged the Church's policy on homosexuality.

**Rev. Skip Webber**, pastor of **MCC Lake Charles**, LA, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

**Rev. Dee Lamb** is recuperating from a broken pelvis. She recently concluded her ministry on the pastoral staff at **MCC of the Resurrection**, Houston, TX.

**Rev. Caroline Blanco**, pastor of **MCC in Paris**, France, was hospitalized in December for pneumonia.

## Top 20 Tithes - Dec. 1994

|     |                                            |                |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.  | Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX          | US \$ 5,883.54 |
| 2.  | Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL | 4,607.64       |
| 3.  | MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX       | 4,067.27       |
| 4.  | MCC Washington, Washington, DC             | 3,166.35       |
| 5.  | MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO             | 2,439.96       |
| 6.  | MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA       | 1,707.15       |
| 7.  | St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL           | 1,680.75       |
| 8.  | MCC Austin, Austin, TX                     | 1,599.22       |
| 9.  | MCC Long Beach, Long Beach, CA             | 1,595.45       |
| 10. | King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL      | 1,485.06       |
| 11. | Joy MCC, Orlando, FL                       | 1,448.95       |
| 12. | Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL    | 1,431.40       |
| 13. | MCC New York, New York City, NY            | 1,271.92       |
| 14. | MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA                 | 1,188.89       |
| 15. | MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT               | 1,065.53       |
| 16. | MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC             | 1,007.78       |
| 17. | Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL            | 953.75         |
| 18. | First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA          | 912.30         |
| 19. | MCC of the Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, FL | 861.27         |
| 20. | Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL   | 844.70         |

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

## Top 20 Per Capita - Dec. 1994

|     |                                               |            |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1.  | Valleys of the Umpqua MCC, Roseburg, OR       | US \$87.00 |
| 2.  | Angel of Hope MCC, Green Bay, WI              | 51.74      |
| 3.  | Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY                  | 37.72      |
| 4.  | Holy Fellowship MCC, London, Ont. Canada      | CAN\$30.02 |
| 5.  | Muskegon MCC, Muskegon, MI                    | 29.88      |
| 6.  | Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL               | 28.90      |
| 7.  | MCC New Haven, New Haven, CT                  | 28.88      |
| 8.  | Christos MCC, Toronto, Ont. Canada            | CAN\$28.72 |
| 9.  | MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT                    | 27.90      |
| 10. | Faith Eternal MCC, Springfield, IL            | 26.12      |
| 11. | Ke Anuenue O Ke Aloha MCC, Honolulu, HI       | 23.10      |
| 12. | Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA              | 22.81      |
| 13. | MCC of the Palm Beaches, W. Palm Beach, FL    | 22.72      |
| 14. | MCC Charleston, Charleston, SC                | 22.50      |
| 15. | Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, Des Moines, IA | 22.28      |
| 16. | MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA             | 22.22      |
| 17. | Harvest MCC, Denton, TX                       | 21.74      |
| 18. | MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX          | 21.47      |
| 19. | MCC Baltimore, Baltimore, MD                  | 21.35      |
| 20. | MCC Johnson County, Shawnee, KS               | 20.56      |

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}



## Freedom Riders Head to Mississippi

Rev. Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator, and Ms. Robin Tyler, prominent lesbian activist, are organizing an interfaith gay/lesbian coalition to aid a lesbian family and their besieged property in Mississippi.

Memorial Day weekend (May 26-30) will once again become memorable for Mississippi as a thousand gays and

lesbians from all across America ride to Camp Sister Spirit, outside Ovett, MS.

Since 1993, lesbian partners Wanda and Brenda Henson have defended their 120-acre Camp Sister Spirit from an ongoing campaign of violence inspired by the radical religious right. There have been more than 64 incidents to date, including death threats and a dead dog tied to their mailbox.

MCC's World Community Builders, a division of World Church Extension, will be involved in helping the freedom riders complete a fence around the property. Over half a mile needs to be done to further insure the safety of Camp Sister Spirit. In addition, five existing barns on the property will be remodeled. □

## Register Directly

Students are now required to register directly with Samaritan for all classes taught in the district partnerships. A completed registration form and payment of the course registration fee and tuition must be mailed to Samaritan 30 days before the first day of class. Students have up to 14 days before the first day of class to register without a late fee. Registrations received after this time will be assessed an additional \$40 late fee. Students are also reminded that Samaritan courses require a minimum enrollment of four students. If registrations are not received at least 14 days in advance, a course may be canceled.

For more information, a copy of the current course listings, and new registration forms, please contact Samaritan: P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067. Phone (214) 221-7749, fax (214) 221-7345. □

## Faculty Named

The first four faculty have been approved by Chicago Theological Seminary to teach in its dual enrollment program with UFMCC's Samaritan College.

They are Drs. Mona West, Lou Kavar, Charles Lippy and Nancy Hardesty. "This is the first time in UFMCC history that we have a formal agreement with another denomination," said Rev. Sandra Robinson, Samaritan president. □

# New Name! New Catalog! UFMCC Resource Center

We are no longer called Church Services, but we still serve you best. Our NEW catalog of resources is coming out soon, items include Fellowship brochures, books by MCC authors and much more!!!

To receive a Resource Center Catalog, please fill in this form and return to: UFMCC Resource Center, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029; or fax to (213) 464-2123.

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ZIP/PC: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

## Classifieds

### TO PLACE AN AD

Cost is \$15 for the first 25 words or less. Additional words are 70 cents per word. Numbers and abbreviations count as words. All classifieds must be prepaid in U.S. funds. All copy for Keeping in Touch Classified Advertising is subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. Appearance of advertising does not imply, nor does it constitute, endorsement by UFMCC. Mail ads to: Keeping in Touch Classifieds, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

### EVENTS

MCC Long Beach, CA presents "Charismatic Conference 1995" Feb. 24-26. For more info, contact MCC-LB, 1231 Locust Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. Phone (310) 432-3641.

### MERCHANDISE

Help needed to get the word out about Liquid Silver. Distributors and retail buyers call (415) 452-0742. Colloidal silver has been used for thousands of years as a natural antibiotic and is known to quickly kill over 650 bacteria, viruses, germs and fungus with no known side effects.

### PEN PALS

If possible, I'd like to correspond with members of UFMCC through letters or e-mail. Gavin Lee, #134F Lane 325, Chuang Ching Rd., Taipei 110, Taiwan ROC. E-mail: b3102097@cc.ntu.edu.tw.

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MCC Paducah, a growing dynamic church in beautiful western Kentucky is in search of a pastor. After just 1 year of holding services, this active, growing, and excited congregation is seeking a pastor to coordinate and lead the ministry of this church. Please submit your letter of interest by March 1, 1995. MCC Paducah c/o Laura Petrie, 612 Broadway #3, Paducah, KY 42001.

MCC San Diego is accepting applications for the full-time position of Senior Pastor. If you would like a CONFIDENTIAL application packet or more information, write: Pastoral Search Committee, MCC San Diego, P.O. Box 33291, San Diego, CA 92163-3291. (No phone calls please.) All inquiries kept confidential.

The Sunshine Cathedral MCC is seeking a qualified Minister of Congregational Care. The Minister of Congregational Care's primary focus will be providing systematic pastoral care through the development, implementation, and ongoing management of a small group system of care within the church. Additional duties include assisting in management of Visitation and Telecare Ministries, making hospital and home pastoral visits, and being on call for emergencies with other staff members.

The position is full-time (40 hours a week) salaried position with health insurance and vacation benefits. The Sunshine Cathedral provides a smoke free, faith oriented, alternate lifestyle friendly envi-

ronment. Position requirements include a bachelor's degree from an accredited university, experience in management, pastoral care, or small groups preferred. Knowledge and maturity in the Christian faith, knowledge of scripture, theology and ethics concerning pastoral care, homosexuality and the Christian, and UFMCC culture helpful. UFMCC clergy credentials helpful. MCC members preferred.

Qualified applicants may apply by sending for an application packet by writing to Gustave Klein, Executive Pastor, Sunshine Cathedral MCC, 330 SW 27th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 or call 305-462-2004. Closing date: February 15, 1995.

Located in the Heartland of America, MCC-Omaha is seeking a senior pastor for its growing Christian community. For application/information, contact R.N. Hedges, 6510 Charles St., Omaha, NE 68132 or phone Peggy 712-322-8710.

Remember that World Community Builders is currently scheduling volunteers for the 1995 work camps to expand the orphanage in the Dominican Republic and to renovate the church in Mexico City. No experience is required. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Fund at P.O. Box 14102, Atlanta, GA 30324. (404) 627-2369.

Samaritan College is seeking applicants for the position of district education facilitator in the following districts: Northeast; Great Lakes; Gulf Lower Atlantic; South Central. Send inquiries to: Samaritan, P.O. Box 688, Lewisville, TX 75067.